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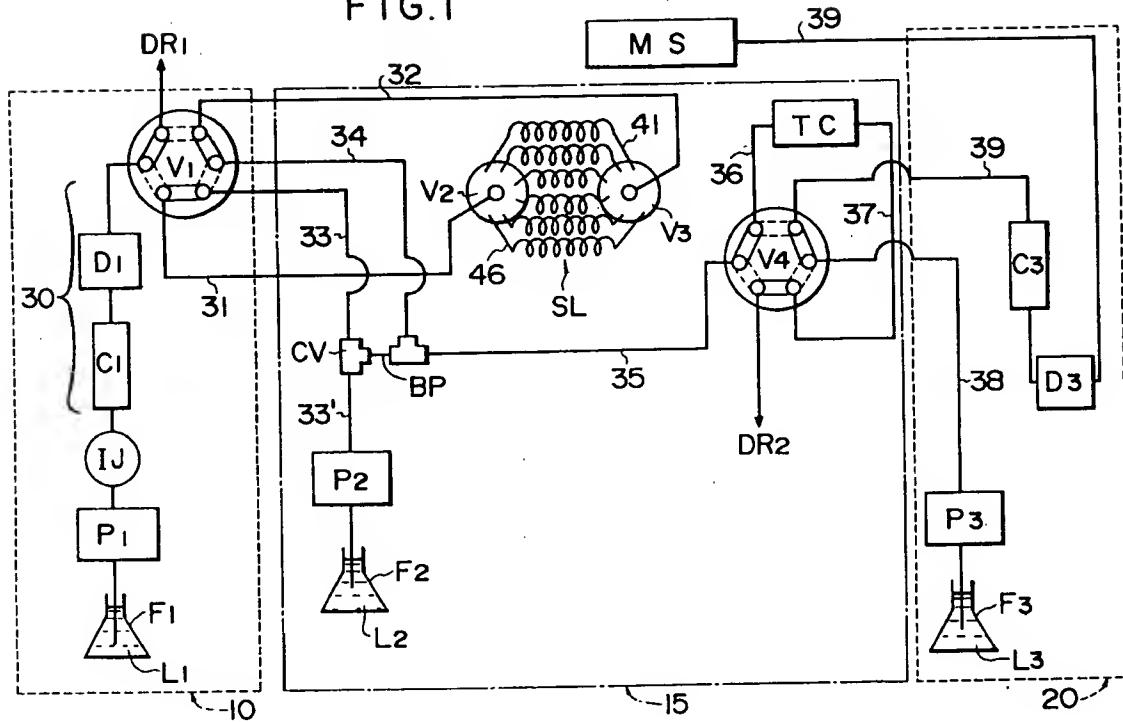
(54) Liquid chromatography mass spectrometry method and apparatus.

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(57) A method and apparatus for liquid chromatography mass spectrometry comprises: a 1st section (10) for separating components present in a sample to be analysed by using a first mobile phase A (L1); a 2nd section (15) including an inserting line (33') for injecting a dilute solution (L2) for diluting the first mobile phase A, and a trapping column (TC) which allows the first mobile phase A to pass through but catches components carried by the dilute solution; and, a 3rd section (20) for introducing

the components caught by the trapping column (TC) into a mass spectrometer (MS) using a second mobile phase B (L3). Preferably a separating column (C1) is included in the 1st section (10) and another separating column (C3) is included in the 3rd section (20). Preferably the 2nd section (15) includes a retainer (SL) including multiple branches (41-46) for retaining and collecting separate fractions of the components separated by the first section (10).

FIG. I





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| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. CL.5) |
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| | | -/- | |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search | Date of completion of the search | Examiner | |
| THE HAGUE | 19 MARCH 1992 | ZINNGREBE U. | |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS | | | |
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| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search THE HAGUE | Date of completion of the search 19 MARCH 1992 | Examiner ZINNGREBE U. | |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document | | | |
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